

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims to that as indicated below:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation, comprising:

a surface having a removable fabric mat;

a substantially elongate portion engagable with said removable fabric mat on said surface;

side storage portions having pockets for storing items, said side storage portions, in said open orientation, extend laterally from, and at least partially along, each length of said substantially elongate portion on opposing sides thereof, so that said mat has a substantially cruciform shape, said mat being foldable and able to be fastened, via fastening means, in said closed orientation into a portable bag with ~~the items stored in~~ space within said side storage portions being accessible by opening a top portion of said portable bag; and,

means for carrying said mat.

14. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, wherein said means for carrying said mat is a handle attached to an additional surface of said mat.

15. (currently amended) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, wherein said substantially elongate portion has a first end that is foldable and engagable with said fastening means on said side storage portions with said first end of said substantially elongate portion forming a front face of a bag, so that in this partially closed orientation, access is available to [[the]] any items stored in the space within said side storage portions.

16. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 15, wherein said substantially elongate portion has a second end that opposes said first end, said second end being foldable over said front face and capable of being fastened thereto.

17. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, further comprising a cover for closing said portable bag.

18. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, wherein said fastening means is snap locks.

19. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, wherein said means for carrying said mat is a handle attached to an upper surface of said portable bag in said closed orientation of said mat.

20. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, wherein said means for carrying said mat include back straps for carrying said mat in said closed orientation.

21. (previously presented) The mat capable of being in both an open orientation and a closed orientation according to Claim 13, further comprising storage pockets on a front face of said portable bag in said closed orientation.